

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain in this application.

Priority

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledgment of applicants' claim for foreign priority and for pointing out that a certified copy of the 01100445.4 application has not been filed. The required certified copy of the form will be submitted to the Office as soon as possible.

Objections to claims 1, 4, 6 and 8

In section 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 6 and 8 were objected to because of informalities.

In claim 1 on line 11, the phrase "the absolute value" was changed to -- an absolute value -- and on line 13 the phrase "the previous metric" was changed to -- a previous metric -- as suggested. Similar changes were made to claim 4 on lines 11 and 13, to claim 6 on lines 4 and 6, and to claim 8 on lines 26 and 27.

Section 112 rejection of claims 1-9

In section 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

In claim 1, there was insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the ratios of logarithmic probabilities" recited on line 9. Similar problems were noted in claims 4, 6 and 8.

The phrase "the ratios of logarithmic probabilities" recited in claims 1, 4, 6 and 8 has been replaced by -- ratios of logarithmic probabilities --. Support for this limitation may be

found on page 17, line 30. Applicants believe that the amended claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the grounds of rejection with respect to independent claims 1, 4, 6 and 8 and also with respect to claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9 which depend therefrom.

Allowable subject matter

In section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 1-9 would be allowable once the 112 second paragraph rejection is overcome. Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowability of the claims.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that all the grounds for objection and rejection have been overcome and the pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



William D. Gill Reg. No. 44,124

Agent for Applicants

IBM Corporation

Intellectual Property Law

5600 Cottle Road (L2PA/010)

San Jose, CA 95193

(408) 256-2821